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studies of the sponges. There had been a severe storm and there was left along the beach a thick ridge of sponges, seaweed, &c. He collected a great many of the most promising specimens of the sponges and took them away with him in glass jars. It is needless to remark that he derived more information from them than from many times their number of dried specimens. He had several agents on the coast who collected and forwarded to him specimens of fossils washed out of the cliff, and he now engaged them and others to forward him sponges recently cast up. Through the agency of friends he also obtained many large consignments of sponges from distant parts of the world. His instructions to his agents were always to only remove as much of the watery matter as would prevent the specimen from rotting, and not to send clean washed-out sponges as if intended for the bath-room. He had a large quantity of sponges packed in cases, many of which he had examined under the microscope."

OLINTHUS GREGORY DOWNES, second son of James John Downes, was born in London on April 7, 1823. From his earliest youth he displayed a taste for scientific pursuits, coupled with mechanical ingenuity, and while still almost a boy joined the Islington Literary Society, where he delivered many interesting and instructive lectures. In 1840 he became a clerk at the Economic Life Assurance Society, where his father, whom he succeeded in 1862, was filling the post of actuary. In 1849 he translated Quetelet's *Lettres sur la Théorie des Probabilités*, and the work was noticed by Sir John Herschel in the *Edinburgh Review* for July 1850. In 1860 he published his book upon the physical constitution of comets, which was noticed in the *Monthly Notices*, vol. xx., p. 59. In 1850 he was elected a Fellow of this Society, of which his father and elder brothers were also Fellows (obituary notices of them appeared in vol. xxviii., p. 76, and vol. xxix., p. 122). He was also a member of the London Mathematical Society. In 1869 he resigned his position as actuary of the Economic, and lived in retirement in the country until the time of his decease in May 1877. In December 1855 he married Anne, eldest daughter of the late Colonel Stewart, 46th Regiment. His integrity and talents gained him many friends when in active life who now deeply regret his loss. He has left a widow and four children.

The Rev. WILLIAM LAKE ONSLOW was the eldest son of Captain John James Onslow, Post Captain in the Royal Navy, and grandson of Admiral Sir Richard Onslow, Bart., G.C.B. He was born at Bishop Wearmouth, in the county of Durham, on May 10, 1820, and received his preliminary education at the Grammar School, Yarmouth. Afterwards he was sent to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he obtained an exhibition, and took his degree

with mathematical honours in 1842. While at college he pulled bow oar in the University eight in two successful encounters with the Oxford crew. In 1844 he was ordained by the Bishop of Norwich, and for some time served the cures of Witton and Brundell, near Norwich. In 1846 he received an appointment as chaplain and naval instructor on board H.M.S. *Hastings*, and left for service on the coasts of South America, India, and China. Afterwards he served in the Baltic, the Mediterranean, and the Crimea, and was successively transferred to H.M.S. *Carysford*, *Duke of Wellington*, *Diadem*, *Immortalité*, and *Raccoon*.

In 1866 he was nominated special naval instructor to H.R.H. Prince Alfred on board H.M.S. *Euryalus*, his last service afloat being in the *Ariadne*, in 1868-69, during the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to the East, after which he was placed on the retired list, and was appointed rector of Sandringham-cum-Babingley and private chaplain in ordinary to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, which position he occupied till his death on August 28, 1877.

REV. FREDERIC WILLIAM RUSSELL was born at Norwich on January 30, 1821, and received his early education under the Rev. Charles Turner. He entered University College, Durham, where he took the degree of M.A., in the usual course, in 1847, and four years after was elected a Fellow of this Society. For some years he was arduously engaged in parochial work; but in 1862 he was appointed Chaplain of Charing Cross Hospital. Here he laboured diligently for fifteen years, and doubtless overtaxed his strength. For some time before his death he appeared to be failing, but still kept to his work. He was, however, taken ill in the hospital, and died there on April 9, 1877, after a few days' illness. In 1857 he married Fanny, youngest daughter of Benjamin Standring, Esq., a London merchant. He was Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and in 1859 published a work entitled *Kett's Rebellion in Norfolk*. He was much interested in scientific matters, especially in the microscope, and was a Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society. He has left a widow and six children.

WILLIAM HENRY FOX TALBOT, of Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire, was the eldest son of the late Mr. William Davenport Talbot by his marriage with Lady Elizabeth Theresa Fox-Strangeways, eldest daughter of Henry Thomas, second Earl of Ilchester, and was born in February 1800. He received his early education at Harrow School, and afterwards proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge. He graduated in 1821 as twelfth wrangler, and obtained the second Chancellor's Medal. In 1820 he had received the Porson Prize for Greek Iambics, which had been founded three years previously. His earliest papers were mathe-